

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

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PASS AMEMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOM OFFENBURGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS MAY 18 MEDIA REACTION REPORT ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S AFRICAN TRIP. END SUMMARY.

2. C.L. SULZBURGER'S (NYTIMES) COLUMN DEALS WITH MONDALE/VORSTER TALKS AND CLAIMS THAT "FEW PEOPLE ARE VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME," AND ANY ATTEMPT BY MONDALE "TO LINK THE PROSPECTS OF ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA TO A CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA'S OWN RACIAL POLICY...IS DOMMED TO FAILURE." MONDALE, WRITES SULZBURGER, WAS "BRIEFLY IRKED" THAT YOUNG CHOSE "THIS VERY MOMENT OF NEGOTIATION TO STIR UP A FUSS BY VISITING SOUTH AFRICA." SULZBURGER STATES THAT EVEN THOUGH YOUNG IS REGARDED AS AN "EXCELLENT, VALUABLE OFFICIAL" BY THE ADMINISTRATION, MONDALE "HAS BEEN GIVEN A SPECIFICALLY MAJOR ROLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS" BECAUSE YOUNG "ADMITTEDLY SHOOTS FROM THE HIP TOO MUCH." SINCE MONDALE CANNOT "PRODUCE CONCRETE RESULTS ON APARTHEID" THE AIM OF HIS TALKS WITH VORSTER SHOULD BE "CLEAR AWAY SHRUBBERY FROM THE ADMINISTRATION'S ULTIMATE MORAL AND POLITICAL TARGET" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, CONCLUDES SULZBURGER.

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3. SCHMEMANN (AP) WRITES FROM MAPUTO THAT THE YOUNG/NUJOMA MEETING WAS THE "FIRST OF SEVERAL PRIVATE SESSIONS" YOUNG PLANNED TO HOLD WITH "KEY AFRICAN AND NATIONALIST MOVEMENT LEADERS." SCHMEMANN QUOTES YOUNG AS SAYING THAT HE AND NUJOMA HAD 'BEGUN TO SOLVE SOME PROBLEMS OF COMMUNICATION.' NUJOMA, ACCORDINT TO AP, SAID THE MEETING HAD BEEN 'A VERY USEFUL EXPLORATORY CONTACT' AND THAT SWAPO HAS 'NO

OBJECTION' TO UN MEMBERS EXERTING 'PRESSURE ON THE RACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA' TO IMPLEMENT UN RESOLUTIONS ON NAMIBIA. NUJOMA, STATES SCHMEMANN, WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET VORSTER IF POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE FREED AND SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WITHDRAWN FROM NAMIBIA. STORY ALSO SAYS THAT EARLIER YOUNG ATTENDED THE UN CONFERENCE WHERE AFRICAN DELEGATES, MAKING NO EFFORTS TO HIDE THEIR FRUSTRATIONS, "DENOUNCED THE PEACE INITIATIVES AS AN EFFORT BY THE WEST TO 'DEFER RATHER THAN PROMOTE' AN END TO SOUTH AFRICAN CONTROL" OVER NAMIBIA. SCHMEMANN WRITES THAT "PRIVATELY, THE AFRICANS HAVE FOCUSED MUCH OF THEIR CRITICISM OF THE WEST ON BRITAIN," AND THAT YOUNG APPEARED TO ENJOY WIDE POPULARITY AMONG THE AFRICANS."

3. GARRICK UTTLEY ON NBC NEWS REPORTS THAT YOUNG "DID NOT CREATE MUCH OF A STIR" WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE UN CONFERENCE AND THAT HE "FACED A DAUNTING CHALLENGE." YOUNG IS TRYING "TO SELL" A POLICY OF MODERATION BUT THERE "ARE FEW BUYERS." BLACK AFRICANS, REPORTS UTTLEY, ARE HAPPY ABOUT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND THAT HE APPOINTED A BLACK TO BE THE UN AMBASSADOR, BUT THEY "SPEAK PASSIONATELY OF THE NEED TO INTENSIFY THE ARMED STRUGGLE" AND OF HAVING BEEN PATIENT LONG ENOUGH. SAME NBC NEWSCAST ALSO HAD A FILM OF YOUNG TALKING WITH REPORTERS AND RESPONDING TO A QUESTION WHETHER HE CAN SELL HIS MESSAGE HERE: 'WELL, I DON'T KNOW THAT IT REALY MATTERS. I THINK THAT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE WERE HERE, REPRESENTED, EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN. I THINK I WILL GET A RESPECTFUL HEARING. PEOPLE WILL NOT AGREE NECESSARILY, BUT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO AGREE; UNCLASSIFIED

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IT IS ONLY NECESSARY THAT WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER AND RESPECT EACH OTHER.'

4. CBS EVENING NEWS CARRIED REPORT FROM RANDY DANIELS IN MAPUTO THAT THERE IS AN "UNDERLYING FEAR" AMONG AFRICANS THAT "SUPERPOWER RIVALRY IN AFRICA" HAS MADE AMERICAN "PARTICIPATION IN THE RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENTS SUSPECTS." YOUNG'S ARRIVAL IS "DESIGNED TO CHANGE THAT." YOUNG BRINGS TO MAPUTO A "DEGREE OF PERSONAL CREDIBILITY" THAT AMERICA'S AFRICAN POLICY HAS LACKED. YOUNG HAD TOLD AFRICANS NOT TO EXPECT "MIRACLES FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION" BUT THAT AFRICA WILL BE CHANGED.

5. TV AND WIRE SERVICES REPORT PRESIDENT CARTER AS SAYING ON A TELEVISION INTERVIEW IN LOS ANGELES THAT MONDALE WILL TELL VORSTER: 'IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT NAMIBIA, WE'LL TAKE STRONG ACTION AGAINST YOU IN THE UNITED NATIONS.' THE PRESIDENT IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE AID THAT 'SHORT OF WAR' THERE WAS LITTLE THE U.S.

COULD DO TO FORCE THE SAG TO ACT.

6. UNBYLINED NYTIMES STORY FROM MAPUTO SAYS THAT YOUNG MET WITH AFRICAN LEADERS AND "STRESSED THE CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE STORY ALSO STATES THAT THE NUJOMA/YOUNG LUNCHEON IS "BEING VIEWED BY THE YOUNG PARTY AS A SMALL ADVANCE FOR THE AMERICAN APPROACH" BECAUSE IN THE PAST NUJOMA "HAS BEEN COOL, IF NOT HOSTILE TOWARD THE UNITED STATES." YOUNG IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID ON THE FLIGHT TO MAPUTO THAT HE WAS "LESS CONCERNED" WITH THE LANGUAGE OF THE RESOLUTION THAT MAY EMERGE FROM THE CONFERENCE THAN HE WAS WITH ESTABLISHING 'PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACT' AND A 'NEW ATMOSPHERE.'

7. RANDAL (WPOST) REPORTS THAT YOUNG IN MAPUTO IS DEMONSTRATING HIS STYLE OF DIPLOMACY, INSTEAD OF "LISTENING
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TO THE PUBLIC SESSIONS WITH THE ANTI-WESTERN RHETORIC" YOUNG IS CONCENTRATING ON PRIVATE MEETINGS AND IS "AGGRESSIVELY SEEKING OUT AND TALKING TO AFRICAN CRITICS" OF THE U.S., LEADERS "WHOSE VIEWS WENT LARGELY IGNORED UNDER THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION." YOUNG'S MEETINGS WITH NUJOMA AND MACHEL "NEATLY ILLUSTRATED HIS SUCCESS - SO FAR AT LEAST - IN DEALING WITH BLACK AFRICAN RADICALS." TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT, RANDAL QUOTES FROM MACHEL: 'I AM NOT SAYING THE UNITED STATES HAS A SOLUTION, BUT IT HAS A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE. THIS IS WHY I SAY WELCOME;' AND QUOTES NUJOMA SAYING: 'IF THE UNITED STATES CAN EXERT PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA, WE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL.' RANDAL CONCLUDES BY WRITING THAT YOUNG'S MEETING WITH NUJOMA "REFLECTED INCREASING WESTERN BELIEF" THAT NAMIBIA MUST BE SETTLED SOON TO CAPITALIZE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S WILLINGNESS - ALBEIT SLOWLY -- TO MOVE ON NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. THE CONCERN IS THAT THIS "COULD BE REVERSED IF THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM BLOWS UP AND FRIGHTENS PRETORIA."
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